

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW WESTERN SUBSPECIES OF GOLDEN MOUSE.

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The golden mice of the subgenus *Ochrotomys* are distinguished at a glance by their vivid coloration, in comparison with the less ornate tones exhibited by the members of other sections of the genus *Peromyscus*. Many specimens of *Peromyscus nuttalli* have been collected in the Southeastern States, but although the species has long been known to range as far west as eastern Texas and eastern Oklahoma, comparatively few examples have been available from west of the Mississippi River. In revising the genus *Peromyscus*, Osgood (North American Fauna No. 28, p. 226, April 17, 1909), examined one specimen from each of the four States Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, and Texas and two from Oklahoma. These were referred by him to the subspecies *Peromyscus nuttalli aureolus*, described from "In the oak forests of South Carolina." Osgood remarked: "The amount of difference between this form and typical *nuttalli* is not great, but is reasonably constant in the material thus far examined." Examination of numerous specimens subsequently collected in the East, however, has led to the conclusion that *aureolus* can not satisfactorily be distinguished from typical *nuttalli*.

Although the specimens available from localities in five States west of the Mississippi River are still remarkably few in number, the uniformity of characters presented, especially by a collection of eight from Delight, Arkansas, indicates the need of segregation of the regional race here described.

Peromyscus nuttalli flammeus, subsp. nov.

WESTERN GOLDEN MOUSE.

Type.—From Delight, Pike County, southwestern Arkansas. No. 170591, ♀ adult, skin and skull, U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey Collection); collected by Walter G. Savage, November 16, 1910. X-catalogue number 8221.

Distribution.—Southeastern Missouri, eastern and southern Arkansas, northern Louisiana, and west to eastern Oklahoma and eastern Texas.

General characters.—A small, western race of *Peromyscus nuttalli*, with buffy under parts, and a flattened skull. Closely resembling *Peromyscus nuttalli nuttalli* of the coast region of southeastern Virginia, in rich "ochraceous-tawny" (Ridgway, 1912) upper parts; under parts usually more distinctly overlaid with pale "ochraceous-buff" across mid-section, the basal color of the hairs more extensively dusky; skull flatter and differing in detail.

Color.—*Type* (winter pelage): Upper parts in general rich "ochraceous-tawny," darkened by a fine admixture of blackish hairs on top of head, becoming more pronounced over back; lower part of sides and outer surfaces of forearms and thighs paler and shading toward "cinnamon-buff," under parts in general overlaid with pale "cinnamon-buff," most intense across mid-section, the hairs dusky basally except on throat and middle of chest, where they are white from tips to roots; vibrissae dusky, but face without dusky markings, as usual in the species; inner and outer surfaces of ears thinly clothed with short "ochraceous-tawny" hairs similar to those on top of head; feet white; tail brownish, somewhat darker above than below. Adult topotypes agree closely in details of coloration with the type. *Young* (in first pelage): Upper parts near "cinnamon," under parts mainly "light buff," the dusky basal color distributed about as in adults.

Skull.—Similar to that of typical *nuttalli*, but smaller and flatter or more depressed, the difference in vertical depth most noticeable in the braincase; incisive foramina about equal in length to palatal bridge (incisive foramina usually longer than palatal bridge in *nuttalli*); maxillary arms of zygomata relatively heavier; dentition about the same.

Measurements.—*Type*: Total length, 157 mm.; tail vertebrae, 70; hind foot, 18. An adult male and female from the type locality, respectively: 172, 181; 76, 81; 19, 19. *Skull* (type): Occipitonasal length, 25.7; condylobasal length, 23; zygomatic breadth, 13.5; depth of braincase over basisphenoid, 7.6; interorbital constriction, 4.1; length of nasals, 10; length of incisive foramina, 4.3; length of palatal bridge, 4.3; maxillary toothrow, 3.6. An adult male and female from type locality, respectively: Greatest length, 25.3, 26.2; condylobasal length, 23.1, 24.1; zygomatic breadth, 13.3, 13.5; depth of braincase over basisphenoid, 7.5, 7.5; interorbital constriction, 4.1, 4.3; length of nasals, 9.2, 9.9; length of incisive foramina, 4.3, 4.3; length of palatal bridge, 4.3, 4.3; maxillary toothrow, 3.9, 3.7.

Remarks.—Additional specimens are needed for the more exact delimitation of the ranges of the subspecies of golden mice. It seems probable that

the Mississippi River will prove to be a convenient line separating *Peromyscus nuttalli flammeus* from *Peromyscus nuttalli nuttalli*. The new subspecies requires no close comparison with *Peromyscus nuttalli lewisi*, which appears to be a northern race with more restricted distribution.

Specimens examined.—Total number, 15, as follows:

Arkansas: Beebe, 1; Big Creek, 1; Delight (type locality), 8.

Louisiana: Ruston, 1.

Missouri: St. Louis, 1.

Oklahoma: Redland, 2.

Texas: Joaquin, 1.

The subspecies of *Peromyscus nuttalli*, with their type localities, should apparently now stand as follows:

Peromyscus nuttallii nuttalli (Harlan). Norfolk, Norfolk County, Virginia.

Synonym—*Peromyscus nuttalli aureolus* (True). "In the oak forests of South Carolina."

Peromyscus nuttalli lewisi Howell. Amelia, Amelia County, Virginia.

Peromyscus nuttalli flammeus Goldman. Delight, Pike County, Arkansas.